

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A postal sorting machine (1) having sort outlets (7) distributed in one or more horizontal rows (6a, 6b) that are superposed and parallel, ~~the machine being characterized in that~~wherein
a bin transfer structure (3) is disposed along said rows (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7),
said transfer structure (3) comprising
one or more superposed bin conveyors (9) extending parallel to respective rows (6a, 6b) of sort outlets, and
one or more superposed gangways (10; 10', 10'') that are movable along the rows (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7), each extending between a row (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7) and a corresponding bin conveyor (9) to enable at least one storage bin (4) to be transferred from a sort outlet (7) to a corresponding bin conveyor (9),
said superposed gangways being offset from one another in a vertical plane extending transversely to the rows of sort outlets.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which a corresponding row (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7), bin conveyor (9), and gangway (10) are disposed substantially in the same horizontal plane.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which each ~~machine~~bin conveyor (9) is a belt conveyor.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which each conveyor (9a) is an accumulation conveyor.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which the conveyors (9) are arranged to move the storage bins (4) in two opposite directions so as to be capable of taking the storage bins (4) at one end towards an inlet (8) of the sorting machine (1), and at the other end towards a bin removal point (Ev).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which each gangway (10) includes a set of parallel idler rollers (17) on which the storage bins (4) are placed.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which each gangway (10) is arranged to be capable of being raised or lowered, or of being withdrawn.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which each gangway (10) is mounted on a wheeled carriage (15).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which each gangway (10) is mounted on a frame (11) of the corresponding bin conveyor (9).

Claim 10 (Cancelled)